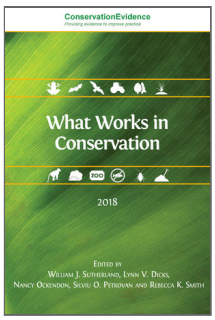

William J. Sutherland, Lynn V. Dicks, Nancy Ockendon, Silviu O. Petrovan and Rebecca K. Smith (dir.)

What Works in Conservation 2018

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8.9. Threat: Pollution

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8.9 Threat: Pollution

Based on the collated evidence, what is the current assessment of the effectiveness of interventions for managing the impacts of pollution in shrublands and heathlands?	
Unknown effectiveness (limited evidence)	• Mow shrubland to reduce impacts of pollutants • Burn shrublands to reduce impacts of pollutants
No evidence found (no assessment)	• Plant vegetation to act as a buffer to exclude vegetation • Reduce pesticide use on nearby agricultural/ forestry land • Reduce herbicide use on nearby agricultural/ forestry land • Reduce fertilizer use on nearby agricultural/ forestry land • Add lime to shrubland to reduce the impacts of sulphur dioxide pollution

Unknown effectiveness (limited evidence)

Mow shrubland to reduce impact of pollutants

One randomized, replicated, controlled study in the UK found that mowing to reduce the impact of nitrogen deposition did not alter shoot length of common heather or the number of purple moor grass seedlings. One controlled study in the UK found that mowing a heathland affected by nitrogen pollution did not alter the cover or shoot length of heather

compared to areas where prescribed burning was used. A*ssessment: unknown effectiveness (effectiveness 0%; certainty 17%; harms 0%).*

https://www.conservationevidence.com/actions/1669

Burn shrublands to reduce impacts of pollutants

One randomized, replicated, controlled study in the UK found that prescribed burning to reduce the impact of nitrogen deposition did not alter the shoot length of common heather or the number of purple moor grass seedlings compared to mowing. A controlled study in the UK found that burning to reduce the concentration of pollutants in a heathland affected by nitrogen pollution did not alter the cover or shoot length of heather relative to areas that were mowed. *Assessment: unknown effectiveness (effectiveness 0%; certainty 17%; harms 0%).*

https://www.conservationevidence.com/actions/1670

No evidence found (no assessment)

We have captured no evidence for the following interventions:

- Plant vegetation to act as a buffer to exclude vegetation
- Reduce pesticide use on nearby agricultural/forestry land
- Reduce herbicide use on nearby agricultural/forestry land
- Reduce fertilizer use on nearby agricultural/forestry land
- Add lime to shrubland to reduce the impacts of sulphur dioxide pollution.